

# SYSTEM FOR PRESENTING AUDIO-VIDEO CONTENT

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5                   This application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 60/285,553 filed April 19, 2001; U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 60/297,091 filed June 7, 2001; and U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 60/329,771 filed October 16, 2001.

                  The present invention relates to viewing audio-video content.

10                  The amount of video content is expanding at an ever increasing rate, some of which includes sporting events. Simultaneously, the available time for viewers to consume or otherwise view all of the desirable video content is decreasing. With the increased amount of video content coupled with the decreasing time available to view the video content, it becomes increasingly problematic for viewers to view all of the  
15                  potentially desirable content in its entirety. Accordingly, viewers are increasingly selective regarding the video content that they select to view. To accommodate viewer demands, techniques have been developed to provide a summarization of the video representative in some manner of the entire video. Video summarization likewise facilitates additional features including browsing, filtering, indexing, retrieval, etc. The typical purpose for  
20                  creating a video summarization is to obtain a compact representation of the original video for subsequent viewing.

                  There are two major approaches to video summarization. The first approach for video summarization is key frame detection. Key frame detection includes mechanisms that process low level characteristics of the video, such as its color distribution, to  
25                  determine those particular isolated frames that are most representative of particular portions of the video. For example, a key frame summarization of a video may contain only a few isolated key frames which potentially highlight the most important events in the video. Thus some limited information about the video can be inferred from the selection of key frames. Key frame techniques are especially suitable for indexing video content.

The second approach for video summarization is directed at detecting events that are important for the particular video content. Such techniques normally include a definition and model of anticipated events of particular importance for a particular type of content. The video summarization may consist of many video segments, each of which is a continuous portion in the original video, allowing some detailed information from the video to be viewed by the user in a time effective manner. Such techniques are especially suitable for the efficient consumption of the content of a video by browsing only its summary. Such approaches facilitate what is sometimes referred to as "semantic summaries".

There are numerous computer based editing systems that include a graphical user interface. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,937,685 discloses a system that selects segments from image source material stored on at least two storage media and denote serially connected sequences of the segments to thereby form a program sequence. The system employs pictorial labels associated with each segment for ease of manipulating the segments to form the program sequence. The composition control function is interactive with the user and responds to user commands for selectively displaying segments from the source material on a pictorial display monitor. The control function allows the user to display two segments, a "from" segment and a "to" segment, and the transition there between. The segments can be displayed in a film-style presentation or a video-style presentation directed to the end frame of the "from" segment and the beginning frame of the "to" segment. The system can selectively alternate between the film-style and video-style presentation. Such a system is suitable for a video editing professional to edit image source material and view selected portions of the image in a film-style or video-style presentation. However, such a system is ineffective for consumers of such video content to view the content of the source material in an effective manner.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exemplary illustration of a graphical user interface for presenting video and a time line.

FIG. 2 is an exemplary illustration of an alternative time line.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary illustration of another alternative time line.

10 FIG. 4 is an exemplary illustration of yet another alternative time line.

FIG. 5 is an exemplary illustration of another graphical user interface for presenting video and a time line.

FIG. 6 is an exemplary illustration of a graphical user interface for modifying the presentation of the video.

15 FIG. 7 illustrates different presentation modes.

FIG. 8 illustrates hierarchical data relating to a video.

FIG. 9 is an exemplary illustration of yet another alternative time line.

FIG. 10 is an exemplary illustration of yet another alternative time line.

FIG. 11 is an exemplary illustration of yet another alternative time line.

20 FIG. 12 is an exemplary illustration of yet another alternative time line.

FIG. 13 illustrates additional navigational options.

FIG. 14 illustrates a regular scanning time line.

FIG. 15 illustrates a summary scanning time line.

FIG. 16 illustrates summary scanning with a thumbnail index of visual indications.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A typical football game lasts about 3 hours of which only about one hour turns out to include time during which the ball is in action. The time during which the ball is in action is normally the exciting part of the game, such as for example, a kickoff, a hike, a pass play, a running play, a punt return, a punt, a field goal, etc. The remaining time during the football game is typically not exciting to watch on video, such as for example, nearly endless commercials, the time during which the players change from offense to defense, the time during which the players walk onto the field, the time during which the

30

5 players are in the huddle, the time during which the coach talks to the quarterback, the time during which the yardsticks are moved, the time during which the ball is moved to the spot, the time during which the spectators are viewed in the bleachers, the time during which the commentators talk, etc. While it may indeed be entertaining to sit in a stadium for three hours for a one hour football game, many people who watch a video of a football game  
10 find it difficult to watch all of the game, even if they are loyal fans. A video summarization of the football video, which provides a summary of the game having a duration shorter than the original football video, may be appealing to many people. The video summarization should provide nearly the same level of the excitement (e.g. interest) that the original game provided.

15 It is possible to develop models of a typical football video to identify potentially relevant portions of the video. Desirable segments of the football game may be selected based upon a “play”. A “play” may be defined as an sequence of events defined by the rules of football. In particular, the sequence of events of a “play” may be defined as the time generally at which the ball is put into play (e.g., a time based upon when the ball is put into play) and the time generally at which when the ball is considered out of play  
20 (e.g., a time based upon when the ball is considered out of play). Normally the “play” would include a related series of activities that could potentially result in a score (or a related series of activities that could prevent a score) and/or otherwise advancing the team toward scoring (or prevent advancing the team toward scoring).

25 An example of an activity that could potentially result in a score, may include for example, throwing the ball far down field, kicking a field goal, kicking a point after, and running the ball. An example of an activity that could potentially result in preventing a score, may include for example, intercepting the ball, recovering a fumble, causing a fumble, dropping the ball, and blocking a field goal, punt, or point after attempt.  
30 An example of an activity that could potentially advance a team toward scoring, may be for example, tackling the runner running, catching the ball, and an on-side kick. An example of an activity that could potentially prevent advancement a team toward scoring, may be for example, tackling the runner, tackling the receiver, and a violation. It is to be

5 understood that the temporal bounds of a particular type of “play” does not necessarily start or end at a particular instance, but rather at a time generally coincident with the start and end of the play or otherwise based upon, at least in part, a time (e.g., event) based upon a play. For example, a “play” starting with the hiking the ball may include the time at which the center hikes the ball, the time at which the quarterback receives the ball, the time at  
10 which the ball is in the air, the time at which the ball is spotted, the time the kicker kicks the ball, and/or the time at which the center touches the ball prior to hiking the ball. A summarization of the video is created by including a plurality of video segments, where the summarization includes fewer frames than the original video from which the summarization was created. A summarization that includes a plurality of the plays of the  
15 football game provides the viewer with a shortened video sequence while permitting the viewer to still enjoy the game because most of the exciting portions of the video are provided, preferably in the same temporally sequential manner as in the original football video. Other relevant portions of the video may likewise be identified in some manner. Other types of content, such as baseball, are likewise suitable for similar summarization including the identification of plays.

20 The present inventors considered the aforementioned identification of a “play” from a video and considered a traditional presentation technique, namely, creation of another video by concatenation of the “play” segments into a single sequence for presentation to the user. In essence, such techniques mask any underlying description data regarding the video, such as data relating to those portions to include, and provide an  
25 extracted composite. The data may be, for example, time point/duration data and structured textual or binary descriptions (e.g., XML documents that comply with MPEG-7 and TV-Anytime standards). While suitable for passive viewing by a user, the present inventors consider such a presentation to be inadequate for effective consumption of  
30 audiovisual material by a user. The user does not have the ability to conceptualize the identified subset of the program in the context of the full program. This is important for the user, because they should create a mental model of the temporal event relationships of the program that they are consuming (e.g., watching). For example, viewing a simple

5 composite of a slam-dunk summary is a limited experience for viewing a sequence of events. In particular, the present inventors consider that a graphical user interface illustrating the temporal information regarding the location of the video segments within the original video enhances the viewing experience of the user and provides an improved dimension to the viewing experience.

10 Referring to FIG. 1, the system may present the video content to the user in one or more windows 20 and may present a corresponding time line 30, which may be referred to generally as temporal information, representative of the entire video or a portion thereof with the identified play segments 32 or otherwise identified thereon. The segments 32 may relate to any particular type of content, such as for example, interesting events,  
15 highlights, plays, key frames, events, and themes. A graphical indicator 35 illustrates where in the time line 30 corresponds with the presently displayed video. The system may present the play segments 32 in order from the first segment 34 to the last segment 36. The regions between the play segments 32 relates to non-play regions 38, which are typically not viewed when presenting a summarization of the video consisting of play segments 32.  
20 The time line 30 may be a generally rectangular region where each of the plurality of segments 32 is indicated within the generally rectangular region, preferably with the size of each of the plurality of segments indicated in a manner such that the plurality of segments with a greater number of frames are larger than the plurality of segments with a lesser number of frames. Also, the size of the regions 38 between each of the plurality of  
25 segments may be indicated in a manner such that the regions 38 with a greater number of frames are larger than segments and regions with a lesser number of frames. Moreover, the size of each region 38 and segments 32 are preferably generally consistent with the length of time of the respective portions of the video. The indicator changes location relative to the time line as the currently displayed portion of the video changes.

30 In an alternative embodiment, the relevant segments may be identified in any manner and relate to any parts of the video that are potentially of interest to a viewer with the total of the identified segments being less than the entire video. In essence, a plurality of segments of the video are identified in some manner. Referring to FIGS. 2, 3,

5 and 4, alternative representations of the time line 30 for the video and segments of potential interest are illustrated.

While the described system is suitable for indicating those portions of the video that are likely desirable for the user, the particular type of content that the time line indicates is unknown to the viewer. For example, during a basketball game the time line may select a large number of good defensive plays and only a few slam dunks. However, the particular viewer may be more interested in the slam dunks, and accordingly, will have to watch a significant series of undesired good defensive plays in order to watch the few slam dunks. Moreover, the system provides the viewer with no indication of when such slam dunks may occur, or whether all of the slam dunks for a particular video have already occurred. To overcome this limitation, the present inventors came to the realization that the time line should not only indicate those portions that are potentially desirable for the viewer, but also provide some indication of what type of content is represented by different portions of the time line. The indication may indicate simply that different portions relate to different content, without an identification of the content itself.

Referring to FIG. 5, the time line 48 may indicate a first type of content with first visual indications 50, a second type of content with second visual indications 52, and a third type of content with third visual indications 54. Additional visual indications may likewise be used, if desired. Moreover, the indications may be provided in any visually identifiable manner, such as color, shade, hatching, blinking, flashing, outlined, normal bands, grey scale bands, multi-colored bands, multi-textured bands, multi-height bands, etc. To provide further interactivity with the video, the system may provide a selectable indicator 56 that indicates the current position within the time line, which may be referred to generally as temporal information, of a currently displayed portion of the video. This permits the user to have a more accurate mental model of the temporal-event relationships of the program they are viewing and interact therewith.

The selectable indicator 56 changes location relative to the time line 48 as the currently displayed portion of the video changes. The user may select the selectable indicator 56, such as by using a mouse or other pointing device, and move the selectable

5 indicator 56 to a different portion of the video. Upon moving the selectable indicator 56, the video being presented changes to the portion of the video associated with the modified placement of the selectable indicator 56. This permits the user to select those portions of the video that are currently of the greatest interest and exclude those that are less desirable. The user may modify the location of the selectable indicator 56 to any other location on the  
10 time line 48, including other indicated portions 50, 52, 54, and the regions in between. Typically, the presentation of the video continues from the modified location.

The system may include a set of selectors 58 that permits the user to select which portions of the video should be included in the summarized presentation. For example, if the slow motion segments are not desired, then the user may unselect the slow  
15 motion box 58 and the corresponding slow motion regions of the time line 48 will be skipped during the summary presentation. However, it is preferred that the slow motion portions are still indicated on the time line 48, while not presented to the user in the summary presentation.

Referring to FIG. 6, a time line 70 may include layered visual bands. The  
20 layered visual bands may indicate overlapping activities (e.g., two different characterizations of the content of the video that are temporally overlapping), such as for example, the team that is in possession of the ball and the type of play that occurred, such as a slam dunk. For purposes of illustration, indicated portions 72 may be team A in possession and indicated portions 74 may be team B in possession. Also, the indicated  
25 portions 76 and 78 may be representative of different types of content.

The potential importance of displaying multiple different types of content, each having a visually distinguishable identifier, within the context of the video may be illustrated by the following example. Three point summary segments in the game of  
30 basketball made toward the end of the game have more significance, and the possession summary provides the user context about each of the three point segments without having to view the preceding portions. In essence, the three point segments reveal limited contextual information, but taken in combination with the entire program time line and



5 overlaid “possession” summary, the summary provides a context to support the temporal-  
event relationship model.

As previously indicated, the interface may support changing the current  
playback position of the video. More than merely permitting the user to select a new  
position in the video, the present inventors determined that other navigational options may  
10 be useful in the environment of presenting audiovisual materials. The other navigational  
modes should correspond to a consistent set of behaviors.

Referring to FIG. 7, the system may include a strong sense mode which, if  
selected, modifies the functionality of the selectable indicator 56. In the strong sense  
mode, the user may modify the location of the selectable indicator 56 to another position.  
15 In the event that the user selects a location within a region between the indicated segments,  
the system automatically relocates the selectable pointer 56 to the closest start of the  
indicated segments. Alternatively, the system may automatically relocate the selectable  
pointer 56 to the next indicated segment, or the previous indicated segment. In the event  
that the user selects a location within an indicated segment, the system automatically  
20 relocates the selectable pointer 56 to the start of the indicated segment. In essence, the  
system assists the user in relocating the selectable pointer 56 to the start of one of the  
indicated segments. After viewing the selected indicated segment, the system goes to the  
next indicated segments, and so on, until presenting the last temporally indicated segment.  
In this manner the regions between the indicated segments will not be inadvertently  
25 viewed. This is also useful for summaries of short events occurring in a relatively long  
video, because the resolution of the cursor may make it difficult to manually position the  
indicator to the beginning of a segment.

The system may also include a mild sense mode which, if selected, modifies  
the functionality of the selectable indicator 56. In the mild sense mode, the user may  
30 modify the location of the selectable indicator 56 to another position. In the event that the  
user selects a location within a region between the indicated segments, the system  
automatically relocates the selectable pointer 56 to the closest start of the indicated  
segments. Alternatively, the system may automatically relocate the selectable pointer 56 to

5 the next indicated segment, or the previous indicated segment. In the event that the user selects a location within an indicated segment, the system does not relocate the selectable pointer 56 within the indicated segment. In essence, the system assists the user in relocating the selectable pointer 56 to the start of one of the indicated segments if located between indicated segments and otherwise does not relocate the indicator. After viewing  
10 the selected indicated segment, the system goes to the next indicated segments, and so on, until presenting the last temporally indicated segment. In this manner the regions between the indicated segments will not be inadvertently viewed. This is also useful for summaries of reasonably long events occurring in a relatively long video, because the viewer may not desire to view the entire event.

15 The system may also include a weak sense mode which, if selected, modifies the functionality of the selectable indicator 56. In the weak sense mode, the user may modify the location of the selectable indicator 56 to another position. In the event that the user selects a location within a region between the indicated segments, the system does not relocate the selectable pointer 56 to the closest start of the indicated segments. In the  
20 event that the user selects a location within an indicated segment, the system does not relocate the selectable pointer 56 within the indicated segment. In essence, the system does not assist the user in relocating the selectable pointer 56 to the start of one of the indicated segments nor relocates the selectable pointer 56 within the region between indicated segments. After viewing the selected indicated segment, or otherwise the region between  
25 the indicated segments, the system goes to the next indicated segments, and so on, until presenting the last temporally indicated segment. In this manner the regions between the indicated segments are viewable while maintaining the summary characteristics. This is also useful for regions between indicated summaries that may be of potential interest to the viewer.

30 The system may also include a no sense mode which, if selected, modifies the functionality of the selectable indicator 56. In the no sense mode, the user may modify the location of the selectable indicator 56 to another position. In the event that the user selects a location within a region between the indicated segments, the system does not

5 relocate the selectable pointer 56 to the closest start of the indicated segments. In the event  
that the user selects a location within an indicated segment, the system does not relocate  
the selectable pointer 56 within the indicated segment. In essence, the system does not  
assist the user in relocating the selectable pointer 56 to the start of one of the indicated  
10 segments nor relocates the selectable pointer 56 within the region between indicated  
segments. After viewing the selected indicated segment, or otherwise the region between  
the indicated segments, the system continues to present the video in temporal order,  
including regions between the indicated segments. In this manner the regions between the  
indicated segments together with the indicated segments, are viewable while maintaining  
the temporal graphical interface. It is to be understood that other navigational modes may  
15 likewise be used, as desired.

The present inventors came to the realization that descriptions related to  
video content may include summarization data and preferences, such as the MPEG-7  
standard and the TV-Anytime standard. These descriptions may also include navigational  
information. Moreover, the data within the descriptions may be hierarchical in nature, such  
20 as shown in FIG. 8. The most rudimentary presentation of this data is to instantiate a  
single sequence or branch from the full collection. For instance, presenting a summary of  
the "slam dunks" for a basketball game. One technique for the presentation of the  
hierarchical material is to indicate each segment on the time line and thereafter present the  
sequence, as previously described. After considering the hierarchical nature of the data and  
25 the time line presentation of the video material, it was determined that the visual  
indications on the time line may be structured to present the hierarchical information in a  
manner that retains a portion of the hierarchical structure. Referring to FIG. 9, one manner  
of maintaining a portion of the hierarchical structure is to graphically present the  
information in ever increasing specificity where at least two levels of the hierarchy,  
30 preferably different levels, are presented in an overlapping manner. For example, in  
baseball the time line may include data from the innings 80, the team at bat 82 (e.g., team  
A, team B), and the plays 84 which may be further differentiated. In the event that the data  
has hierarchical or non-hierarchical temporal information with overlapping time periods,

5 the temporal information may be displayed in such a manner to maintain the differentiation of the overlapping time periods.

In general, the time line may include multiple layers in a direction perpendicular to the length of the time line. This multiple level representation permits more information regarding the content of the video to be presented to the user in a more compact form and consistent format. The levels may be of different widths and heights, as  
10 desired. Also, the techniques for presenting the information in the time line may be associated with a particular layer of the time line. These layers may be managed, in the graphical user interface, as windows that may be minimized, reordered, shrunk or expanded, highlighted differently, etc. Also, the time line layering allows the particular presentation technique for each layer to be dynamically reconfigured by the user.  
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Referring to FIG. 10, to further annotate the time line textual information may be included therein. The textual information may, for example, include the name of the summary segment overlaid on the associated band in the time line. For example, in a football game, the current “down” may be shown. Referring to FIG. 11, textual  
20 information may also be presented as floating windows that pop up when the user brings the cursor over the associated segment. For example, in a baseball game, the user may move the cursor over the player-at-bat summary to learn who is batting in each segment, etc. Referring to FIG. 12, audible information may be presented together with the presentation of the video and temporal information. For instance, in a baseball game, the  
25 last-pitch-for-player-at-bat and the last-pitch-of-inning, may be associated with distinct audio clips that are played back at the beginning or otherwise associated with these particularly interesting plays.

The techniques discussed herein may likewise be applied to audio content, such as for example, a song, a group of songs, or a classical music symphony. Also, the  
30 techniques discussed herein may likewise be applied to audio broadcasts, such as commentary from national public radio or “books on tape”. For example, the first paragraph, medical paragraphs, topical information, etc. may be summarized. Moreover, the techniques discussed herein may likewise be applied to audio/visual materials.

5                   The strong sense, mild sense, weak sense, and no sense (see FIG. 7)  
navigation selections permit enhanced interactivity with the audiovisual material.  
However, such navigational selections are cumbersome and may not provide the  
functionality that may be desired by consumers of audiovisual materials. To provide an  
enhanced experience to consumers of audiovisual summaries additional navigational  
10                   functionality should be provided, where the functionality is associated with the visual  
interface presented to the user.

Referring to FIG. 13, a summary/normal button 100 selection is provided to  
enable the user to select between the summary presentation (e.g., primarily the summary  
materials) and the normal presentation (e.g., include both the summary materials and non-  
15                   summary materials) of the audiovisual materials. A play/pause button 102 begins playback  
from the current position or pauses the playback at the current position if the program is  
already playing. A reverse skip button 104 and a forward skip button 106 cause the  
program to skip rearward or skip forward in the audiovisual content a predetermined time  
duration or otherwise to another summary portion.

20                   To reduce the time necessary for a user to consume a program the user may  
use a forward scan button 108 or a reverse scan button 110. Referring to FIG. 14, the  
forward scan button 108, when coupled with the normal playback 100, may use a  
predetermined period of time to determine the amount to advance 120 and another  
predetermined period of time of the short playback portion 122. In essence, each portion is  
25                   displayed briefly before jumping to the next segment, unless the user decides to terminate  
the scan and resumes either normal or summary playback. It will be noted that this  
technique does not make use of the program summary description.

Referring to FIG. 15, the forward scan button 108, when coupled with the  
summary playback 100, may use the summary description depicted in the scroll bar to  
30                   determine the amount to advance 124 and another predetermined period of time of the  
short playback portion 126. In essence, each summary portion is displayed briefly before  
jumping to the next segment, unless the user decides to terminate the scan and resumes  
either normal or summary playback. It will be noted that this technique makes use of the

5 program summary description. Different techniques may be used to determine the offset into the program segment as well as the duration of the playback. For example, the offset and duration may be based on the program description or they may be based on a statistical analysis of the segment time boundaries. The example shown in FIG. 15 illustrates an offset of zero seconds (n) and a playback duration at an arbitrary number of seconds. That is, the viewer previews the first n seconds of each of the summary segments.

Another technique to dynamically determine the offset and duration may be by permitting the user to configure the scanning parameters. For instance, the user may press the play or skip button prior to activating the scan operation. Then if the time between pressing the play button (or skip) and pressing the scan button is within a reasonable range, this duration may be used as the scan playback duration parameter. Alternatively, the user may manually select the duration and/or offset parameter. Similarly, the same techniques may be used for the reverse scan button 110.

The user interface may likewise permit the configuration of other scanning operations. For example, the scanning modes may be activated by pressing the skip buttons 104 or 106 for a greater than a "hold" period of time, or the skip buttons 104 or 106 may have a "repeat key" behavior that is equivalent to being in the respective scan modes. The scan modes may be used as a fundamental technique for consuming the program, or as a rapid advance feature which will position the program for further operations. The scan mode may be terminated by any suitable action, such as for example, pressing another button while in the scan mode and/or activating another navigational option (e.g., play, reverse skip, forward skip, etc.).

An navigation example is described, for purposes of illustration, with respect to a baseball viewer that is interested in advancing to and watching all the plays of the game in which their favorite player is playing.

- (a) The viewer activates the forward scanning mode by pressing the scan button. The viewer watches the program, waiting to detect their favorite player in the action, at which point they enter normal playback mode by pressing the play button.

- 5 (b) The game is then played back at normal rate without skipping or scanning anything. When the player is no longer in the action, the user may return to step (a), or they may,
- (c) enter summary playback mode by pressing the summary/normal button 100. The game is played back in summary mode, just displaying the program summary segments. When the game becomes dull the player may return to step (a). Or if the favorite player returns to action, the user may
- 10 (d) re-enter normal (default) playback mode by pressing the summary/normal button. This puts the user back into step (b).

The combined effect of the improved navigational functionality together

15 with the visual information provides a powerful user interface paradigm. Several effects may be realized, such as for example, (a) the visual cues facilitate the navigational process of finding specific program locations, (b) the combination of visual cues and navigation components conveys an impression of the “big picture” in the essence of the whole time line, and (c) the combination forms a feedback loop where the visual cues provide the

20 intuitive feedback for the operation of the navigation controls. As it may be appreciated, the visual cues reinforce the commands and operations activated by the user, giving a strong feedback to the user. For instance, as the user activates the scanning operation, they will observe the scroll bar behavior depicting the scanning action. This in conjunction with the constantly updating main viewing area, gives a clear impression to the user of exactly

25 what the system is doing. This likewise gives the user a stronger sense of control over the viewing experience.

Referring to FIG. 16, the indexed mode of the program summaries may likewise be associated with thumbnail images that are graphical indices into the program time line, which further enhance the viewing experience. The thumbnail images are

30 associated with respective summary segments, and may be key frames if desired. In addition, the thumbnails presented may be dynamically modified to illustrate a selected set proximate the portion of the program currently being viewed. Also, the thumbnail associated with the summary segment currently being viewed may be highlighted.

5 As it may be observed, during normal playback the program will highlight  
 thumbnails at a rate based on the different gaps between each segment, which is typically  
 irregular. However, when the program is played back in summary scanning mode, the  
 highlighted thumbnails will advance at a regular pace from segment to segment. This  
 regular (or linear) advancing of the thumbnail indices is a graphical mapping of the  
 10 irregular (non-linear) advancement of the actual program. That is, the program is playing  
 back in an irregular sequence, while the visual cues are advancing at a regular rate.

The various navigational operations described herein, expanded by their  
 specific configuration parameters, makes possible a large number of complex navigation  
 sequences. Depending on the user, the program genre, and/or the perspective the user has  
 15 on a particular game (or program), there may be a wide variety of combinations that the  
 user would like to include in a “macro” type navigation function (or button). A customized  
 button (or function) may be provided for the user to perform a desirable sequence of  
 operations. A sample list of navigation operations and their configuration parameters is  
 illustrated below:

Navigation Operation	Configuration Parameters
Regular Skip	Direction Period of time to advance/retreat Audio and video fade in periods
Smart Skip	Direction Number of segments to advance/retreat Segment “theme” patterns (used to filter segments within summary) Period of time to offset into segment Base of offset (start or end) Audio and video fade in periods
Regular Scan	Direction Period of time to advance/retreat Period of time to playback



5		Audio and video fade in and fade out periods
	“Smart” Scan	Direction
		Number of segments to advance/retreat
		Segment “theme” patterns
		Period of time to offset into segment
10		Base of offset (start or end)
		Period of time to playback
		Audio and video fade in and fade out periods
	Play	Duration
		Smart or default playback mode
15	Pause	Duration

One example of a personalized navigational control is a button configured to “replay the last two seconds of the segment previously viewed.” This macro button could be as follows: smart skip, in reverse, one segment, no theme change, offset two seconds, from end of segment, with zero fade in; play, for two seconds, in default mode; and resume prior navigation operation.